

A LETTER received at the Harvard College Observatory from Professor Henry Norris Russell, director of the Princeton University Observatory, contains the following preliminary values of the parallax of the star of large proper motion in Ophiuchus which have been determined by him from micrometric observations communicated by Professor Barnard. From the differences of the distances of stars α and k , a solution in which the proper motion is eliminated in the usual manner gives a parallax of $0''.69 \pm 0''.06$. Measures of positives made from the plates of 1894 and 1904, when compared with the measures of 1916, give a proper motion of $10''.38$ toward $355^\circ.8$. Assuming this proper motion, the distance measures of the stars α , c and k give parallaxes of $0''.85$, $0''.53$ and $0''.66$, and the measures of position angle α a mean parallax of $0''.75$. The mean of these determinations is $0''.70 \pm 0''.05$. The absolute magnitude of this star on Kapteyn's scale is 13.6, and its real brightness is less than one three-thousandth that of the sun, making it the faintest star so far known.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE University of California has received through the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Josselyn Boalt an endowment of \$200,000 for the maintenance of professorships in law.

At a meeting of the governors of the South Wales University College, called to consider proposals for providing better science teaching after the war, it was reported that Sir W. J. Tatem had promised to provide a chemical laboratory which would cost at least £25,000, and that other promises included 1,000 guineas from the late Mr. Beaumont Thomas, 1,000 guineas from Mr. Dan Radcliffe, 1,000 guineas from Mr. J. Herbert Cory, M.P., 1,000 guineas from Mr. W. Beyron, and 2,000 guineas each from Mr. Morgan Wakely and Mr. Percy Miles.

HAVING decided to open its courses to women as soon as proper facilities can be provided, the college of physicians and surgeons, Columbia University, is now appealing for immediate contributions of \$50,000, so that these

facilities may be secured and women admitted to the school next September. It is proposed to erect a small addition to the present college buildings, sufficient to provide for the women students, until such time as new quarters are provided for the entire college.

ON February 23 the regents of the University of Michigan adopted a resolution confirming the union with the University of Detroit college of medicine and surgery. The terms of the merger are that the latter shall turn over its charter, real estate, equipment and hospital privileges to the university and that a fund of a million dollars will be raised for the development by the university of a graduate school of medicine in Detroit.

DR. THEODORE LYMAN and Dr. George W. Pierce have been promoted to professorships of physics at Harvard University.

DR. GEORGE B. PEGRAM, professor of physics at Columbia University, has been appointed to be dean of the school of applied science to succeed Frederick A. Goetze, who is now treasurer of the university.

PROFESSOR RAYMOND C. OSBURN, professor of biology at the Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, has been elected head of the department of zoology and entomology of the Ohio State University, his appointment to take effect July 1. He will assume the duties carried for the last nineteen years by Professor Herbert Osborn, who was last year elected research professor and who will hereafter give his entire time to research work, including the direction of research by graduate students, and, for the present, the directorship of the Lake Laboratory and of the Ohio Biological Survey.

PROFESSOR DR. O. VAN DER STRICHT, professor of histology and embryology, University of Ghent, Belgium, has been reappointed research fellow in cytology, school of medicine, Western Reserve University.

DR. P. N. VAN KAMPEN, university lecturer at Amsterdam, has been appointed professor of zoology and comparative anatomy in the University of Leyden, in succession to the late Professor Vosmaer.